



Town of Rowe
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 1, 2022–6:00 p.m.
Rowe Town Hall – Hearing Room 1 and
Remote Participation

Finance Committee: Chair Dan Pallotta, Loretta Dionne, Wayne Zavotka, C. Selmi Hyytinen (via remote)
Board of Selectmen: Ed Silva
Present: Planning Board Chair Paul McLatchy III, Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau,
Via Remote Participation: Treasurer Terry I Green, Park Commissioner Laurie Pike, Rosie Gordon, Sean Loomis, Board of Assessors Chair Rick Williams, Board of Health Chair Maggie Rice

Call to Order: Chair Pallotta called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

Roll Call Vote: Wayne Zavotka – yes Loretta Dionne – yes
Dan Pallotta – yes C. Selmi Hyytinen – yes
1 Vacant Position

Planning Board:

Chair Paul McLatchy III explained that the board decreased operations because they were not needed. Requested were \$5,000 to continue to add and contribute to a legal fund in the event that the Board has an issue requiring legal work and not to exceed \$50,000.00.

Board of Health:

BOH Chair Rice explained the wages for Refuse Gardens wages and that they went down now we have one person and there are 3 alternates at a lesser salary. The main attendant works 16 hours a week at 19.00 per hour and alternates get 15.00 per hour. BOH Clerk wages went up to 23.00 per hour. The Nurse still advertising and would like to get someone and a difficult time to get interest in the position. The Mosquito Control District cost is \$ 5000.00.
Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

Ed Silva spoke about the grade chart and said the chart was not meant to automatically increase that it was meant to be a guide. FRCOG Wage and Salary study and the evaluation of an individual has to come into it.

Assessors:

Assessors Chair Rick Williams indicated stipends would remain the same. The Assessors Admin Asst is currently recommending going to the 23.00 per hour.
The legal work with the Appellate Tax Board (ATB) is ongoing and have ongoing legal expenses Assessors still working on the ATB still have \$57,000.00 to bring it to \$107,000.00 as there is still work for legal support and it is unclear when the cases will move to court.

Reval year every 5 years cost increased to \$14,500.00 for a very comprehensive revaluation. So the recommendation to rehire Mayflower Valuations and would need Yankee to be appraised by a special appraiser for that industry. Hydro Transmission and Distribution appraisals are in the last year of the 5 year contract. Hydro is a cost share with other towns
4% increase but may possibly be able to cut the legal budget depending on what happens.
Levy Limit has increased and the

Park:

Chair Pike said that minimum wage went up to \$14.25 and the Park had taken that into consideration with their budget request. Park Manager salary went up since after 17 years the Commission felt that he has been underpaid and strongly recommended an increase in his salary. Concern was expressed that there had not been enough time and direction given to the Wage and Salary Chart developed by the Board of Selectmen and that town boards and citizens will not be prepared for the wage and salary chart. Ms. Pike expressed pride in the maintenance and work performed on the trail system in the Park.

Park Special Projects:

The Park has applied for a grant to replace the UTB vehicle through a MassTrails grant would not qualify and learned it would not qualify, however, a mini excavator would qualify with a 20% town match and 80% from the grant to be used for trail maintenance. It would provide the capability to get more work done. Also the replacement cost for the UTB is \$36,000 with to replace the 2008 Polaris. The Tennis Courts are not in good condition at the moment. Laurie is working on an Open Space and Recreation plan in order to apply for a grant. The courts require a fix or repair court for \$24,000.00. They estimate that it could cost \$80,000 to replace on court. Courts could be cleaned for \$3,000.00. and would like to bring it to a Special Town Meeting in order to have the money early enough in the season to accomplish.

Adjournment:

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Pallotta made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. The motion was seconded by Wayne Zavotka.

Roll Call Vote: Wayne Zavotka – yes
Dan Pallotta – yes
1 Vacant Position

Loretta Dionne – yes
C. Selmi Hyytinen – yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: *MAY 9, 2022*

Approved:



Dan Pallotta, Chair



Loretta Dionne



Wayne Zavotka

C. Selmi Hyytinen

Documents:

1. Agenda January 25, 2022
2. FY2 Budget Submission – Planning Board
3. FY2 Budget Submission – Board of Assessors
4. FY2 Budget Submission – Board of Health
5. FY2 Budget Submission – Park Commission